$_?\,J_{s6s}J$ $\;$ They escape the army of sierra leone. 101

boats forsook the ships., and went Into a river called the Casseroes: and the 6th, having despatched their business, the two barks returned, and came to Taggarin where the two

ships were at anchor.

Not two days after the coming of the two ships thither [i.e., 2nd January] they put their water caske [casks] ashore, and filled it with water, to season the same: thinking to have filled it with fresh water afterwards. And while their men were some on vshore, and some at their boats; the Negroes set upon them in their boats, and hurt divers of them; and came to the casks, and cut the hoops of twelve butts, which lost us four or five days' time, besides great want we had of the same.

Sojourning at Taggarm, the *Swallow* went up the river, about her traffic; where they saw great towns of the Negroes, and canoes that had

threescore men in apiece.

There, they understood by the Portuguese, of a great battle between them of Sierra Leone side, and them of Taggarm. They of Sierra Leone had prepared three hundred canoes to invade the other.

The time was appointed, not past six days after our departure from thence: which we would [wished to] have seen, to the intent we might have taken some of them; had it not been for the death and sickness of our men, which came by the contagiousness of the place; which made us to haste away.

The i8th of January, at night, we departed from Taggarin; being bound for the West Indies. Before which departure, certain of the Solomon's men went on shore to fill water, in the night; and as they came on shore, with their boat, being ready to leap on land, one of them espied a negro in a white coat, standing on a rock, ready to have received them when they came on shore; having m sight, also, eight or nine of his fellows, some leaping out in one place and some in another; but they hid themselves straight [immediately] again. Whereupon our men doubting [fearing] they had been a great company, and sought to have taken them at more advantage, (as GOD would!) departed to their ships; not thinking there had been such mischief pretended to them, as there was indeed; which, the next day, we understood of a Portuguese that came down to us, who had traffic with the Negroes.